

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION THAT CIA MONEY PAID TO
AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION PARTIES

1. AUSTRALIAN RADIO MORNING SEPT 23 CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH RAY AITCHISON, CANBERRA JOURNALIST WHO RECENTLY VISITED WASHINGTON, IN WHICH AITCHISON SAID THAT MONEY FROM THE U.S. HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO AUSTRALIA'S ANTI-SOCIALIST OPPOSITION PARTIES DURING THE MAY ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN IN 1974. AITCHISON FURTHER QUOTED AS STATING HE BELIEVED SOME OF THE MONEY COULD HAVE COME FROM CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. AITCHISON SAID WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR U.S. MONEY TO FIND ITS WAY INTO ELECTION FUNDS IN AUSTRALIA. HE SAID IT COULD BE DONE THROUGH WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK OFFICES OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES WITH SUBSIDIARIES IN AUSTRALIA, WITH FUNDS PAID INTO HOLDING ACCOUNT AND ADMINISTERED BY A LAWYER.

2. AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS HAS ALSO CARRIED STORY AND TELLS US THAT OPPOSITION LIBERAL PARTY AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON REPORT.

3. AMBASSADOR AUTHORIZED EMBOFF TO TELL AAP IN RESPONSE TO
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QUESTION THAT NO RPT NO CIA FUNDS WERE CONTRIBUTED TO ANY

AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL PARTY.

4. COMMENT: AITCHISON STATEMENTS, WHICH ARE WHOLLY SPECULATIVE IN CHARACTER, ARE OBVIOUSLY SPIN-OFFS FROM ALLEGATIONS MADE REGARDING CIA OPERATIONS IN CHILE, WHICH HAVE BEEN PROMINENTLY REPORTED IN AUSTRALIAN PRESS. UNFORTUNATELY, NUMBER OF AUSTRALIAN CABINET MINISTERS (INCLUDING MINISTER FOR LABOR CAMERON, MINISTER FOR SERVICES DALY, AND FORMER MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION GRASSBY) HAVE SPECULATED IN LAST SEVERAL MONTHS THAT MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OPPOSITION PARTIES. IN RESULTING ATMOSPHERE, MERE ALLEGATION BY AITCHISON, UNSUPPORTED BY ANY EVIDENCE, WILL HAVE SOME IMPACT IN AUSTRALIA.
GREEN

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